



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Gilles Jourdin ✓

Serial No.: 10/057,406 ✓

Filed: January 23, 2002 ✓

For: DEVICE FOR FASTENING ✓
DISTRIBUTION COMPONENT
ON A VESSEL NECK

Examiner: Not Yet Designated

PATENT APPLICATION
VAL1599P0251US

Group Art Unit: 3727

Confirmation No. 1614

#3 / IDS
5/25/02
EB

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, the art identified on the attached form PTO/SB/08A and other matters discussed below may be helpful to the Patent Office in its examination of the application identified above.

A copy of each of the identified patent documents is enclosed herewith for the Examiner's consideration.

Enclosed is a copy of the French language Search Report ("Rapport De Recherche Préliminaire") and Annex thereto ("Annexe Au Rapport De Recherche Préliminaire") which issued in the French application FR 01.01441 from which priority is claimed for the above-captioned pending U.S. patent application. Copies of the documents cited in the French Search Report are also enclosed.

Description Of The Non-English Language Document

FR 97.12962 discloses a fixing ring 1 for attaching a pump P to a container. The fixing ring has resilient legs or feet which temporarily deform outwardly and then snap back inwardly underneath the container neck flange C (see FIGS. 1A, 1B, and 1C).

EP 0 806 248 A1 discloses an assembly for fixing a pump, valve, or the like onto the flange neck of a container. As shown in FIGS. 3, 4, and 5, the device includes a sleeve 30 and an inner lining 1. The inner lining 1 is deformable during installation of the device such that the outer sleeve causes the liner to deform underneath the container neck flange as shown in FIG. 5.

The order of listing of the art on the attached Form PTO-1449 should not be construed as an indication of the importance of the listed art.

The Patent and Trademark Office Examiner is requested to review the art and determine the extent of the materiality of the disclosures thereof with respect to the patentability of the subject invention. It is expected that the Patent and Trademark Office Examiner will independently conduct a complete search for relevant prior art.

No inference should be drawn and no representation is made or intended: (a) that a search has been made, or if made, was complete; (b) that the art on the attached list presents a comprehensive investigation of the prior art; or (c) that no more pertinent art than that listed is in existence. [See 37 C.F.R. §1.97(g)]

Citation of any art herein is not to be construed as an admission: (a) that the art disclosure is, or is considered to be, necessarily within the invention field of endeavor, pertinent to the instant invention, or equivalent to the instant invention; (b) that the art disclosure is, or is considered to be, necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant in the instant patent application; (c) that the art disclosure is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b); and/or (d) that the art disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention and application. [See 37 C.F.R. §1.97(g).]

No inference should be drawn that the discussion of any art herein is a discussion of each and every feature disclosed therein.

Also, there is reserved the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosures of any document or other art, including the disclosures of the art cited herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the instant patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

WOOD, PHILLIPS, KATZ, CLARK & MORTIMER

By

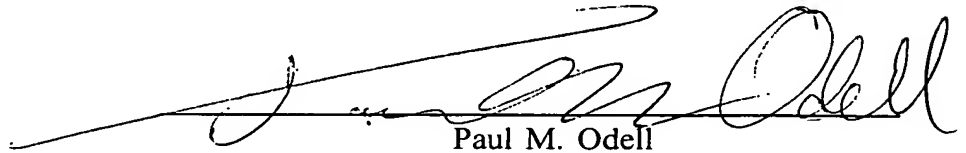

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Serial No. 10/057,406 - - - 4

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on April 23, 2002.



Paul M. Odell